

COMMUNITY PRESERVATION ACT COMMITTEE

First Floor Meeting Room, Town Hall

7:00 pm - 9:00 pm

Minutes Tuesday, March 3, 2015

Agenda items to be discussed:

- Discussion and vote on whether to do 2 rounds of proposals per year recommendations
- Updates from past recipients of CPA funds
- Review financial Information
- Discuss and vote Proposals
- Review preliminary draft of report to Town Meeting, if available
- Approve any minutes
- Topics the Chair did not reasonably anticipate 48 hours before the meeting

Members in Attendance: Mary Streeter, Chair, Marilyn Blaustein, Paris Boice, Vice Chair, Jim Brissette, Peter Jessop, Laura Lovett, Jim Oldham.

Absent: Ellen Kosmer

Staff: Dave Ziomek, Sonia Aldrich

Members of the public

Discussion and vote on whether to do 2 rounds of proposals per year assuming there may be surplus funds

If done, proposals would have to be in by end of June with public hearing in September.

Peter recommended one cycle with exception of time sensitive items.

Paris said, if adopted, two round would require more meetings; she wants to ensure time and effort is worth it, if done.

Jim Oldham—reality that all proposals are not ready at the same time. Would know in June if there's an interest; would like to hold off for a year and then implement for the following year.

Laura—would be doubling cost to town if there were 2 cycles. Only required to have one public hearing per year. Would require additional staff time – closing fiscal year, working on next fiscal year. According to Sonia, would be labor intensive.

Would 2nd cycle help town staff? Ziomek said early or mid-July would be better for 2nd round; could truncate process and have fewer meetings.

Streeter – If all proposals funded for spring, would be surplus of ~\$1.2 million

Oldham—what is the urgency for fall funding could be additional criteria;

Comments from the public - M. Adams thought it would be very helpful for the public and would be easier to coordinate needs.

Could be helpful for land grants and open space; grants often due in summer and don't hear until the fall (Ziomek). Can be advantageous.

Peter moved to continue same process as in past and let town staff know that we're open to proposals for fall and commit to developing second round in future years. Need deliberation to package it. Boice seconded. Streeter suggested that this would be incorporated into CPA plan. VOTED 7-0, 1 absent.

Updates from past recipients of CPA funds

Still have not received updates on Town projects.

Open space projects. Nickerson project will not happen.

Working through state on conservation restrictions with Kestrel Trust. \$40,000. Will follow up with Nate Malloy.

Habitat updates –Janet Bordwin Kannel reported on Habitat projects.

Review financial information—spreadsheet from Sonia; returned appropriation of \$45k.

Dave reported on responses to questions of legal counsel on 3 items.

Peter –any proposals approved for spring Town Meeting pending notification from town staff that there are no outstanding issues from town counsel.

Discuss and vote proposals

Debt service and administrative fees. Jessop moved to approve all items. Rolling Green revised to 10 years down from 20. Approved 7-0.

Administrative appropriation \$1,750 - dues generally lag; also cost of signage and advertising; Peter willing to help out with signs if Paris is willing to help out. Oldham moved; Jessop seconded. Voted 7-0 to approve.

Open space Surveys and Appraisals (Paris & Peter seconded); presently \$13K, some of which is committed.

Hall property (Paris & Jim); voted unanimously.

Hoerle property moved by Blaustein(\$50,000) Dave will alert Mary if different. Voted unanimously.

North Amherst Field \$50,000 J. Brissette moved. Oldham less comfortable with construction of parking lot and did not address recreation—argument in favor of parking primarily from staff in adjacent building (see supporting letter). Jessop argued that it would add to revitalization of area. Should make it clear that parking is not for tenants. Voted unanimously 7-0.

Amherst Baseball Improvements to Mill River Fields—Brissette /Jessop

Oldham moved to amend to \$95,351. Hard to argue against proposal; proposed removing \$32k for 4 dugouts; essential to make sure that fields are in good condition; funds will not be available later for other projects (e.g., Habitat) dugouts not a pressing need. Should be mindful of what money is being spent on. (no second)

Andy Donahue (Amherst Baseball) Safety of children is major focus; major function of dugout is to give kids a place to sit and ensure that baseballs do not hit the kids; dugouts keeps them in the shade and protects them from being hit by foul balls.

Jessop supports Oldham's comments. Laura interested in multiple uses

Todd Rees Amherst Baseball ~200 players; bulk of kids ~140 use Mill River 10-12 fields.

Used daily between April and July. Also used for 2 months in the fall. Numbers are slowly growing 300 participants ~ 10 years ago, but lower now due to Ultimate and Lacrosse.

Because we're flush in CPAC funds, should limit spending. Voted to approve \$127,351 6 in favor 0 opposed; 1 abstention.

Affordable housing... \$50k for surveys, appraisals and related studies; Mary recommended to reduce to \$25 and when funds are expended to come back and request additional funds. Jessop seconded; committee in general agreement; town staff would approve appropriate use of funds (e.g., advertisement) Voted 7-0.

Amherst Community Land Trust 95K NACF Lot (Oldham recused himself); Peter past member of Habitat Board. Funds to move project forward. Hawthorne will move forward before this one. Voted 6-0; 2 absent (including recusal).

Cook Fountain consultant (Laura & Jim) Historical commission sent memo. Plumbing for the fountain not included in estimate—Dave mentioned that there was no mention of plumbing in proposal. Work on plumbing in 1990s according to Nate. Will DPW work on the plumbing? May come back with another proposal for plumbing. Dave asked to convey to Guilford. Voted 7-0.

Amherst Historical Society Strong House \$25K (Laura and Peter). Peter liked involvement of students in the project and hopes it becomes part of the proposal. Voted 7-0 to approve.

AHS Strong House painting \$25K (Laura & Peter) Voted 7-0.

Goodwin Memorial \$25 (Laura & Peter) Voted 7-0.

Pending notification from legal counsel about the proposals.
Sonia will produce preliminary draft of Report to Town Meeting (see packet in handouts)

Next Meeting:

March 31 - Town Meeting preparations

Warrant language due on March 9th.

Debt service will be voted separately at TM.

Approve minutes

Feb.10, 2015 - Change Peter Jessop to absent as he viewed the meeting remotely. Need quorum to allow remote participation. Select Board needs to approve first. 4 approved; 4 abstained.

Motion to adjourn at 8:54 Voted 7-0;

Documents Distributed

CPA Agenda 2015-3-3, 1 page

CPAC FY2016 Recommendations t Town Meeting worksheet draft, 3/3/15, 1 page

Financial Status foe CPAC Funds, 2015-3-3, 1 page

Historical Commission CPA Recommendations FY2016, 2015-3-3, 1 page

Draft CPAC Meeting Minutes Feb.10, 2015, 7 pages

Draft CPAC Report to Town Meeting, 2015-3-3, 4 pages

CPA Project Update – Amherst Media, 1 page

CPA Project Update – Jones Library projects, 5 pages

Amherst Community Land Trust Bylaws, July 14, 2014, 25 pages

North Amherst Field Answers to CPAC Questions – Chalfant, 2/24/15, 1 page

Respectfully submitted by Marilyn Blaustein, acting clerk
Approved September 8, 2015